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~~TOP SECRET~~
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

CM-2993-68
9 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

DECLASSIFIED

Subject: Situation in Vietnam

Authority JCS 10-3-78 letter
By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

You have received General Westmoreland's fifth report on the situation in Khe Sanh through 11:00 PM EST, 8 February 1968. I talked to General Westmoreland at 8:30 AM EST this morning and obtained some additional information which is contained in the succeeding paragraphs.

Yesterday was fairly quiet. The enemy appears to be tired. However, General Westmoreland expects the second cycle of attacks to begin soon and he has been getting ready for these attacks.

In Khe Sanh, B-52 and tactical air strikes continue to pound the area. The weather is marginal in that area and bad along the coast.

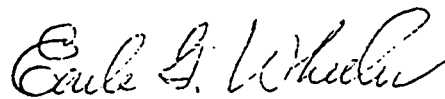
In Hue/Phu Bai, three ARVN Airborne Battalions are down to the approximate strength of 160 men each. General Westmoreland is reinforcing with three Vietnamese Marine Battalions - one to be airlifted into Hue today, one tomorrow, and one the day after. In addition, one battalion of the 101st Airborne Division will be deployed to Hue/Phu Bai tomorrow. A second battalion of the 101st will be moved to Hue by landing ships. There have been reports out of I Corps that the Citadel in Hue has been cleared of enemy; however, General Westmoreland can neither confirm nor deny this yet.

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The situation in Dalat is clearing up, although there is still some fighting in the western part of the city. In Saigon, there have been some skirmishes.

The IV Corps area, according to General Westmoreland, is in good shape. He is concentrating his Riverine Force at My Tho.

The Provisional Field Army Headquarters, to be called MACV Forward, under General Abrams (who continues in his capacity as Deputy COMUSMACV) will open tomorrow, to control all forces generally in the area of the I Corps Tactical Zone. I previously reported this to you, but the events since TET have delayed the establishment of this headquarters.



EARLE G. WHEELER

Chairman

Joint Chiefs of Staff